

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /091 W
-----093178 132230Z /41

R 132033Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 02744

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRE-AUTONOMY STATUES APPROVED FOR 4 MORE REGIONS

REF: MADRID 1901

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MEETING ON MARCH 10 AND 11, APPROVED DECREE-LAWS GRANTING PRE-AUTONOMY STATUTES FOR THE REGIONS OF ARAGON, THE CANARY ISLANDS, GALICIA AND VALENCIA. THE STATUTES REPORTEDLY ARE VERY MUCH IN THE MOLD OF THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR CATALONIA AND THE BASQUE REGION. THEY BRING TO A TOTAL OF SIX THE NUMBER OF REGIONS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN GRANTED PRE-AUTONOMY. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAGON (PROVINCES OF HUESCA, ZARAGOZA AND TERUEL):
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THE STATUTE PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "GENERAL DEPUTATION OF ARAGON," WHICH WILL BE MADE UP OF 18 MEMBERS: 12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (4 FROM EACH OF THE 3 PROVINCES); THE PRESIDENT OF EACH PROVINCIAL DEPUTATION; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF EACH PROVINCE. UCD, WITH ARAGONESE CENTRIST INDEPENDENTS, HAS A MAJORITY OF THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND SHOULD

THEN BE ABLE TO ENSURE THE SELECTION OF A PRESIDENT OF ITS CHOICE FOR THE REGIONAL DEPUTATION.

3. CANARIES (PROVINCES OF LAS PALMAS AND SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE; A TOTAL OF 7 ISLANDS): THE STATUTE ESTABLISHES THE JUNTA OF THE CANARIES, WHICH WILL BE MADE UP OF 35 MEMBERS: 28 ELECTED BY THE ISLANDS' PARLIAMENTARIANS, IN PROPORTION TO THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 15, 1977 ELECTIONS, PLUS 1 REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE 7 ISLANDS' GOVTS ("CABILDOS"). ONCE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD, THE STATUTE STIPULATES THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE JUNTA WILL BE CHANGED TO REFLECT THOSE ELECTION RESULTS. UCD, WITH A MAJORITY OF THE CANARIES' PARLIAMENTARIANS, SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE IN ELECTING A JUNTA PRESIDENT OF ITS CHOICE.

4. GALICIA (PROVINCES OF LA CORUNA, PONTEVEDRA, ORENSE, AND LUGO): THE STATUTE PROVIDES FOR THE FORMATION OF A JUNTA OF GALICIA WHICH WILL BE MADE UP OF 19 MEMBERS: 11 OF THEM ELECTED BY AND FROM AMONG THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARIANS WHILE THE OTHER 8 WILL REPRESENT THE REGION'S 4 PROVINCIAL DEPUTATIONS. FOUR OF THE 8 WILL JOIN THE JUNTA IMMEDIATELY, WHILE THE OTHER 4 WILL BE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF THE RETURNS OF THE FUTURE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE UCD MEMBERS, AND THEY ALREADY HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREED ON UCD DEPUTY FOR LUGO, ANTONIO ROSON, AS THEIR CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE JUNTA.

5. VALENCIA (PROVINCES OF VALENCIA, CASTELLON DE LA PLANA AND ALICANTE): THE STATUTE ESTABLISHED THE COUNCIL OF VALENCIA WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL CONSIST OF 15 MEMBERS, 12 OR THEM ELECTED BY THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THE OTHER 3 REPRESENTING THE RESPECTIVE PROVINCIAL DEPUTATIONS. THE PSOE HAS THE EDGE IN NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE REGION, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DEPUTY FOR VALENCIA JOSE LUIS ALBINANA WILL BE CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

6. NOT SURPRISINGLY, REACTION TO THE APPROVAL OF THE STATUTES HAS VARIED NOTICEABLY FROM REGION TO REGION:

-- THE ARAGONESE, WHOSE PURSUIT OF AUTONOMY HAS SPARKED RELATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST IN THE REGION, GREETED THE NEWS WITH MUTED SATISFACTION.

-- THE GALICIAN CENTER AND RIGHT PRAISED THE DECISION, WHILE THE LEFT GRUMBLED THAT IT WAS "A NICELY GIFT-

WRAPPED BOX WITH NOTHING INSIDE." EVEN WITHIN UCD
THERE HAS BEEN OPPOSITION EXPRESSED TO THE CHOICE OF
ROSON, A LEADER OF UCD'S MORE CONSERVATIVE TENDENCY, AS
JUNTA PRESIDENT.

-- IN CONTRAST, VALENCIANS AND "CANARIOS" OF ALMOST
EVERY POLITICAL STRIPE HAVE HAILED THEIR RESPECTIVE
STATUTES. THE CANARIES STATUTE, IN PARTICULAR, IS
WIDELY REGARDED, ON THE MAINLAND AND IN THE ISLANDS, AS
AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN THE
TROUBLED ARCHIPELAGO.

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7. MEANWHILE, THE REMAINING REGIONS WAIT IN LINE.
ANDALUSIA, WHERE THE LEFT, PARTICULARLY THE PSOE, IS
INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED WITH THE CONTINUING DELAY IN
APPROVAL OF THE REGION'S STATUTE, MAY BE NEXT. BUT AN
ACCORD REMAINS HUNG UP ON DISAGREEMENT OVER THE METHOD
OF ELECTION OF THE JUNTA PRESIDENT. STABLER

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